

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN

ISSUE 09



MARVEL

SPENCER
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

Life hasn't been easy for mutants lately. Hated and feared after Magneto's Ultimatum Wave and the destruction of New York City, they have been locked up and forced to live in camps, the most notable being Camp Angel.

Meanwhile, the Southeast Asian Republic (SEAR) spun out of control and was reborn as the twin cities of Tian. Led by Korn of the Celestials and Zorn of the Eternals—brothers spawned by the super-human serum known as The Source—it created a safe haven for mutants worldwide. In Washington, after having sent in his covert mutant team Ultimate X to Tian, Nick Fury revealed his secret plan to Val Cooper: the Ultimate X team hadn't defected, it was all a ruse to infiltrate Tian and gain inside access. Little did Fury know, Karen Grant (Jean Grey) had played a mind-trick on him and has pledged her allegiance to Korn!

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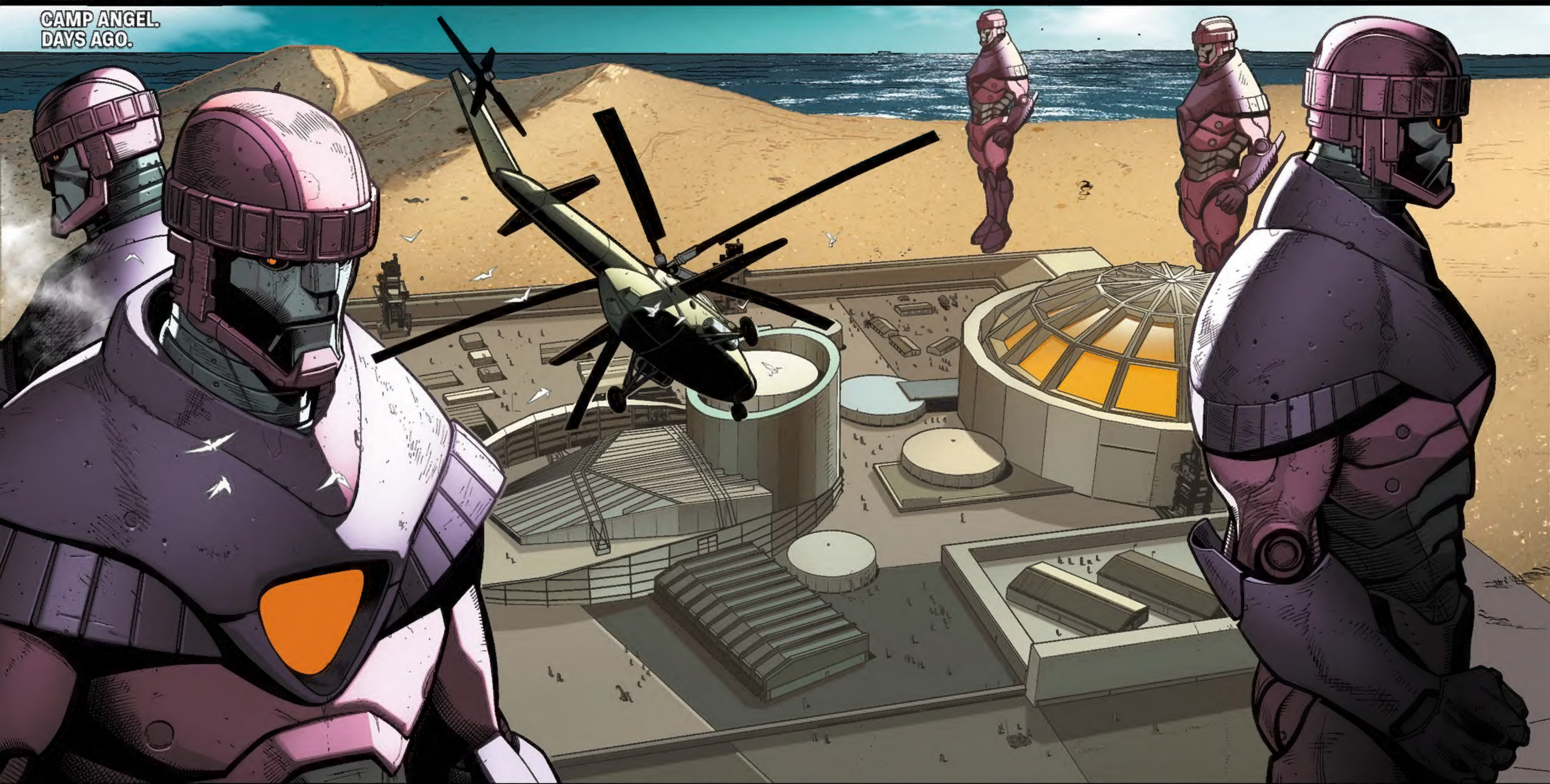
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CAMP ANGEL.
DAYS AGO.





Of course
this can all
stop, Mister
Rasputin--



Just as
soon as you
tell us what
you know.









Sir, I know what you're gonna say--

You always do, Walker. But seeing as how you can't put your things on my desk just yet, probably best you listen anyways.

Yes, sir-- it's just, the men...ever since what happened to Gale and West--



That was a tragedy, son, no doubt about it. And no question what we do here is dangerous. Doesn't excuse making a cheap spectacle of another man's suffering.

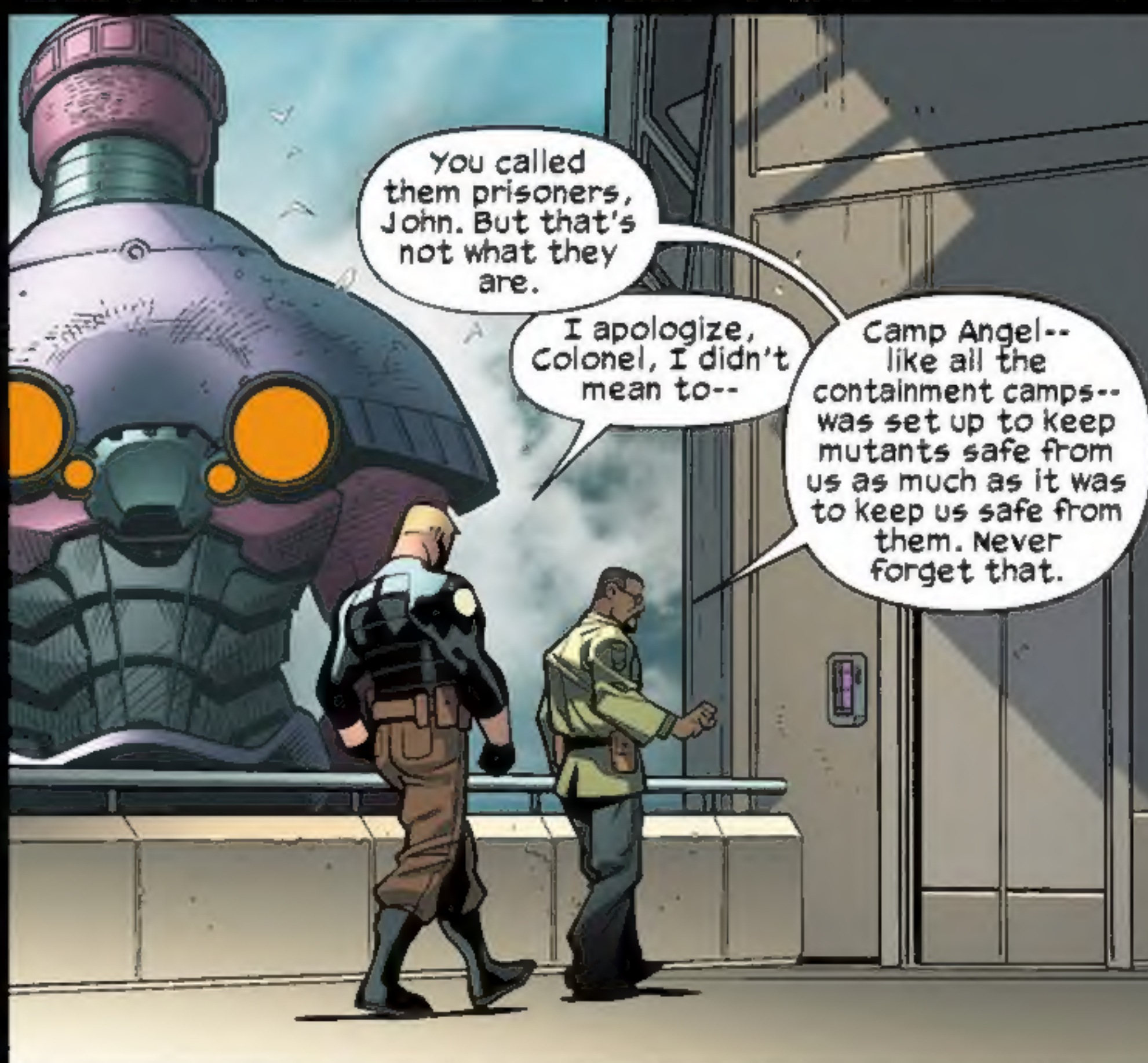
Of course, sir. But the fact remains, every day these men are being asked to guard prisoners who are vastly more powerful than they are.



They've seen two of their own die, and seeing this, unsavory as it might be--well, it might help them feel more in control, if you follow me. Remind them who's in charge here.

Prisoners.

Sir?



You called them prisoners, John. But that's not what they are.

I apologize, Colonel, I didn't mean to--

Camp Angel-- like all the containment camps-- was set up to keep mutants safe from us as much as it was to keep us safe from them. Never forget that.



It's a temporary, inelegant solution to the most vexing problem of our age-- how do we co-exist with our evolutionary replacements? Because one thing I am certain of, son--



The future
won't wait much
longer.

Hello,
Ororo.

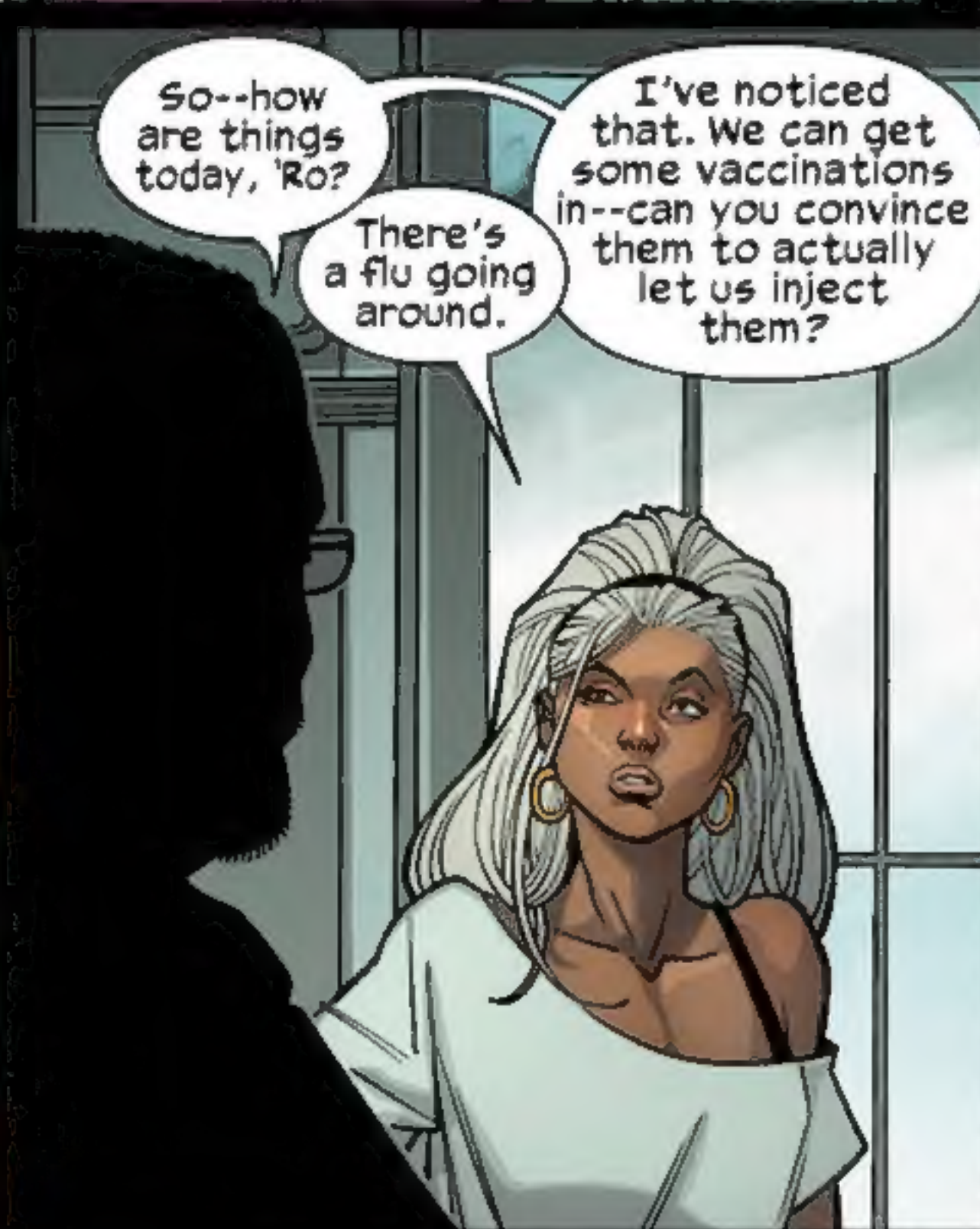
Colonel
Lake.



Major John
Walker, this is
Ororo Munroe,
also called
Storm.

Major.

Ma'am.



So--how
are things
today, 'Ro?

There's
a flu going
around.

I've noticed
that. We can get
some vaccinations
in--can you convince
them to actually
let us inject
them?



Some of the
people here have
medical training. I
think if we could do
some kind of buddy
system--one human
nurse, one mutant
nurse--they might
go for it, but...



She's not
going to make
it easy.



Our oppressors call me Miranda Leevald--but you all know me by my rightful mutant name, Stacy X!

I am a political prisoner of war-- just like all of you!

This is a picture of our friend, Andres Merino.

They claim he killed two of the guards here. They claim they were justified in shooting him, riddling his body with over sixty bullets!



Sixty bullets! When is that kind of force ever justified?!



And we all know the truth! We know that they were the ones who provoked him! They attacked him, in the middle of the night, like cowards!

We all know what's really going on here--the torture rooms down in their basement, the random attacks in the workrooms and showers-- none of this will end!



None of this will end until we decide to fight back!





Understood, we've all got our opposing arguments to deal with. I'll make some calls, then. And thank you.

Anything you need from me?



Piotr.



I...I'm working on that, Ro.



This "Stacy X" thing looks like it could be a problem. You want me to get some guards over and shut it down, sir?

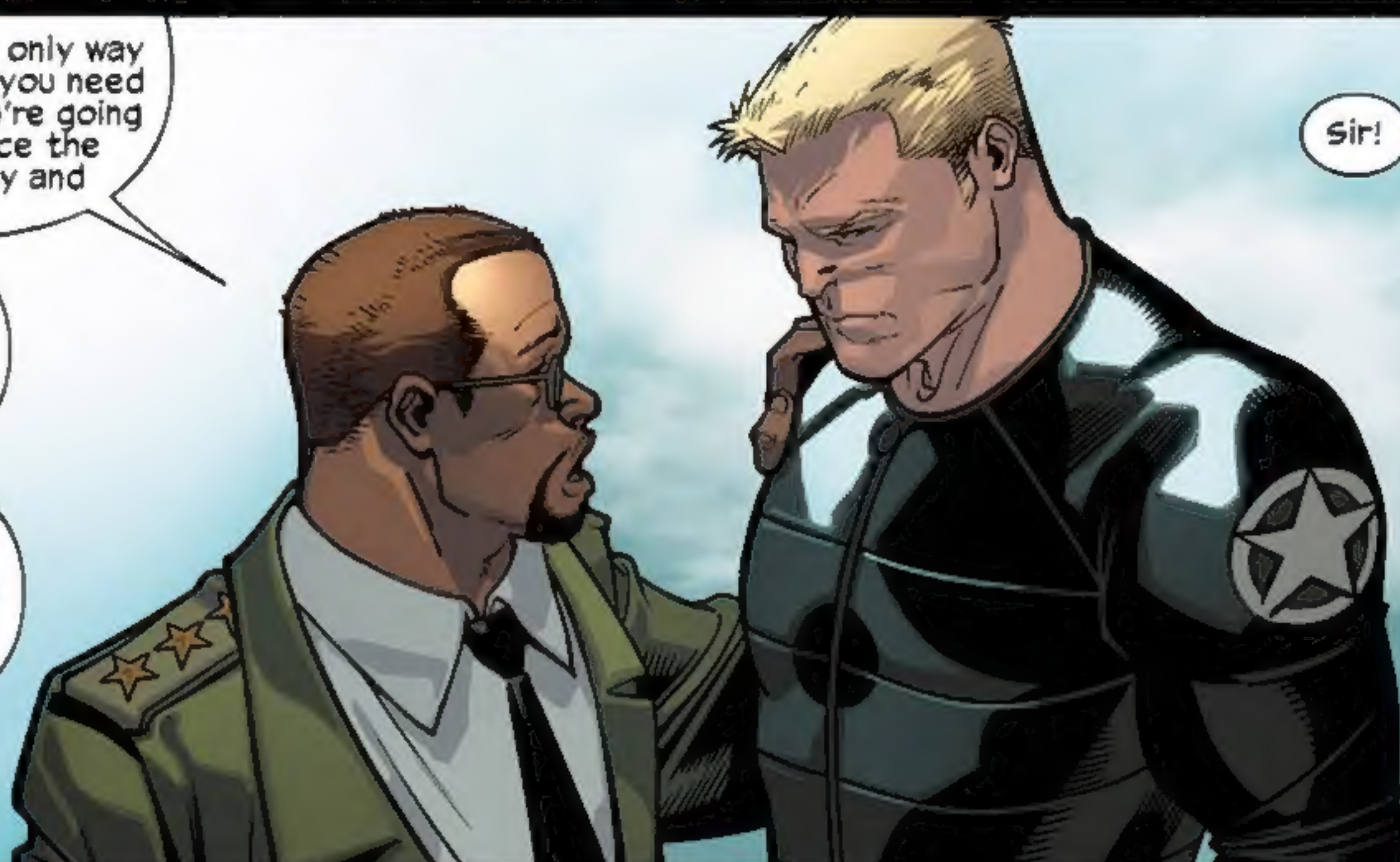
Absolutely not. That will only help her get where she wants to go.

No, better we follow Ororo's suggestion here, could foster some goodwill.

You see, this is the only way forward, John--and you need to understand if you're going to replace me once the wife gets her way and I retire.

If anything good is to come out of all this, it starts with us talking to each other.

My hope is when this whole mess blows over, what we do here can be a model, one the entire world can follow--



Sir!



Jansen?
You need to see this, sir--

What is it, son?
Just-- just see for yourself, Colonel--



I tried to get to you as fast as I could.

My God...



When did this come out?

Just a few minutes ago, sir.



Kill the TVs.



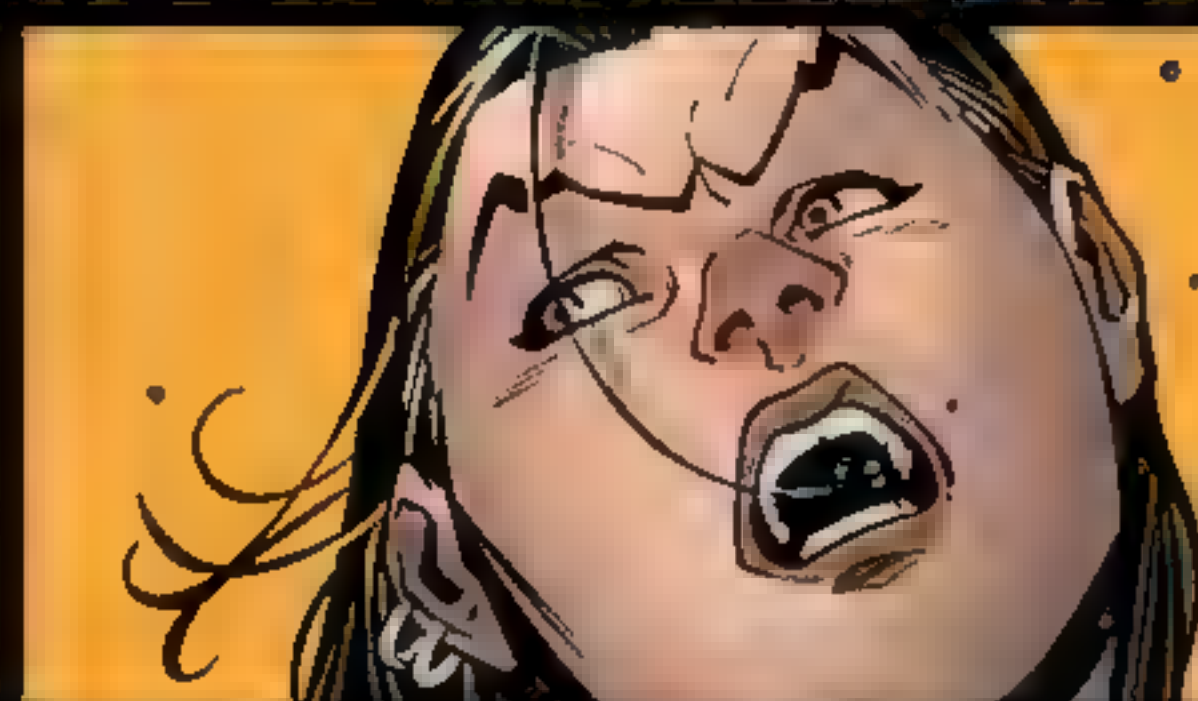
I know that some of you believe we can appease our tormentors.

That Xavier's old ideas still apply--even here, even now...as they press the heel of their boot against our necks.

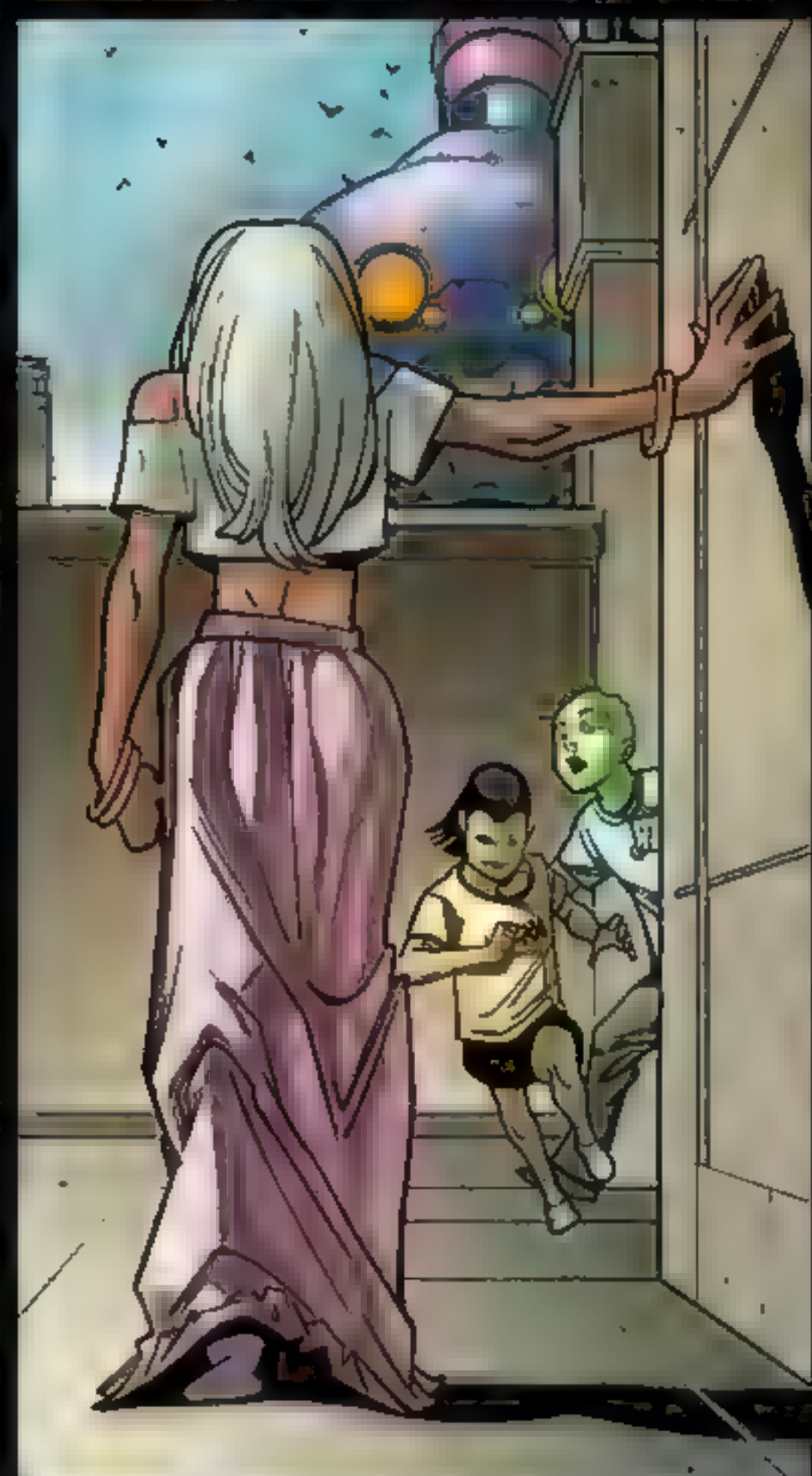


How much longer will they tell us to bow to our inferiors? To our aggressors?

How long until our rightful revolution?!



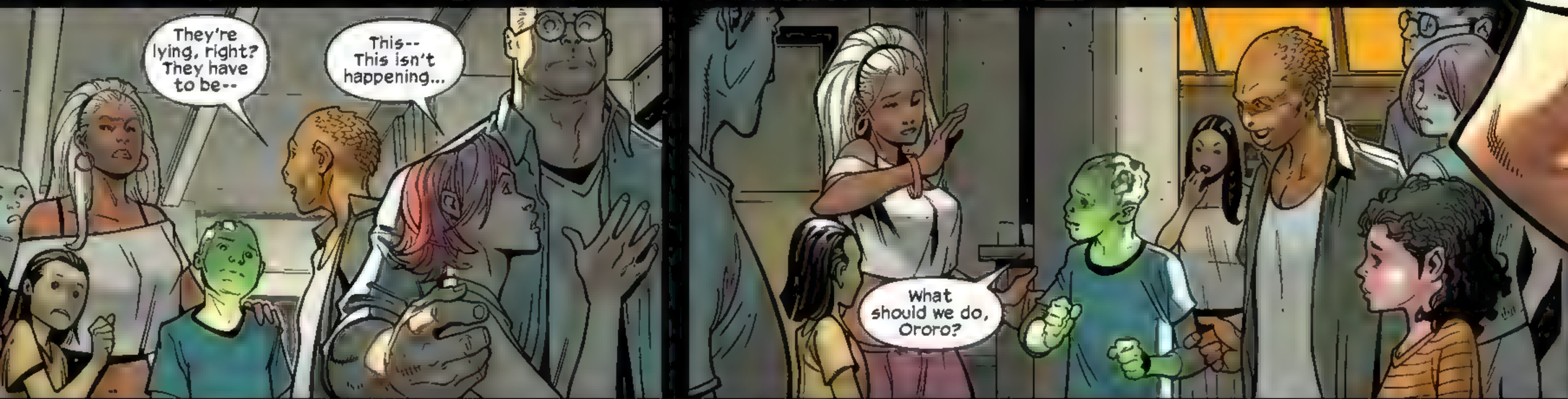
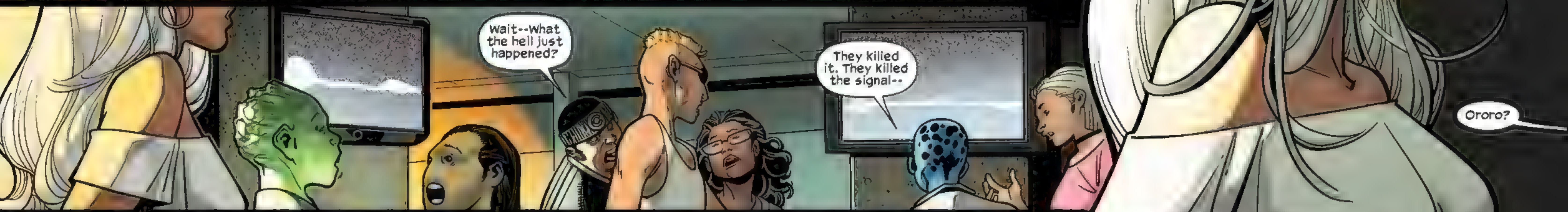
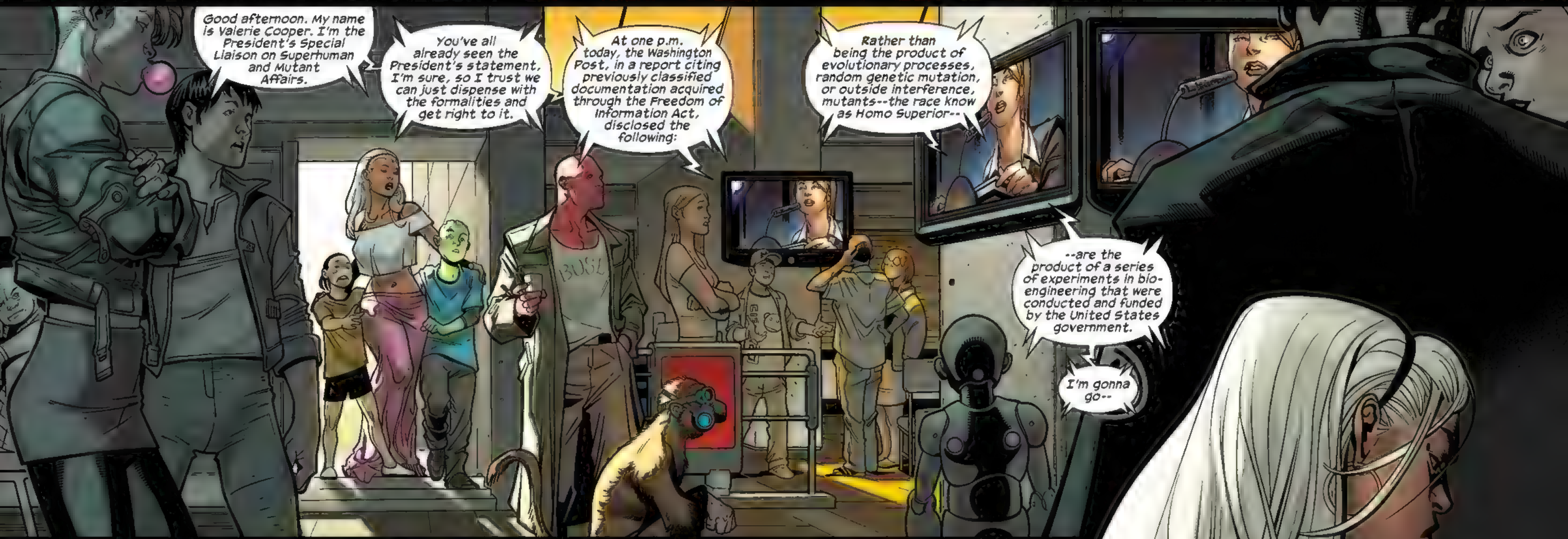
How long until we make the flood our beginning rather than our end?!

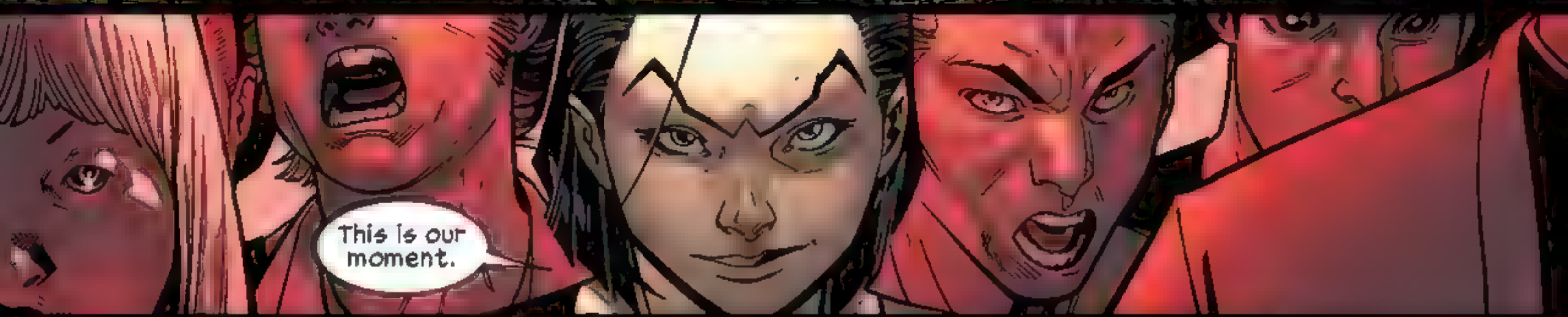
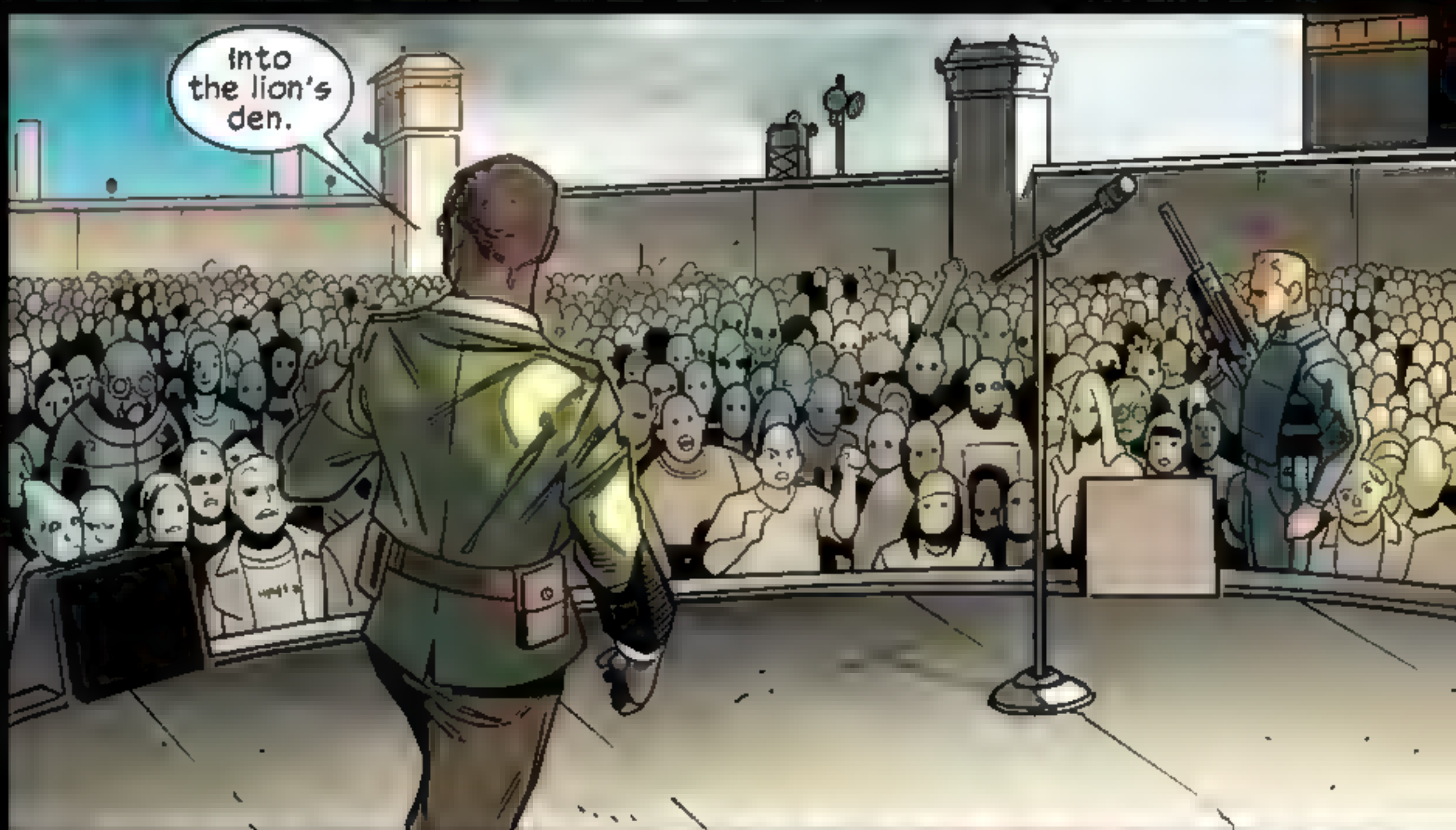


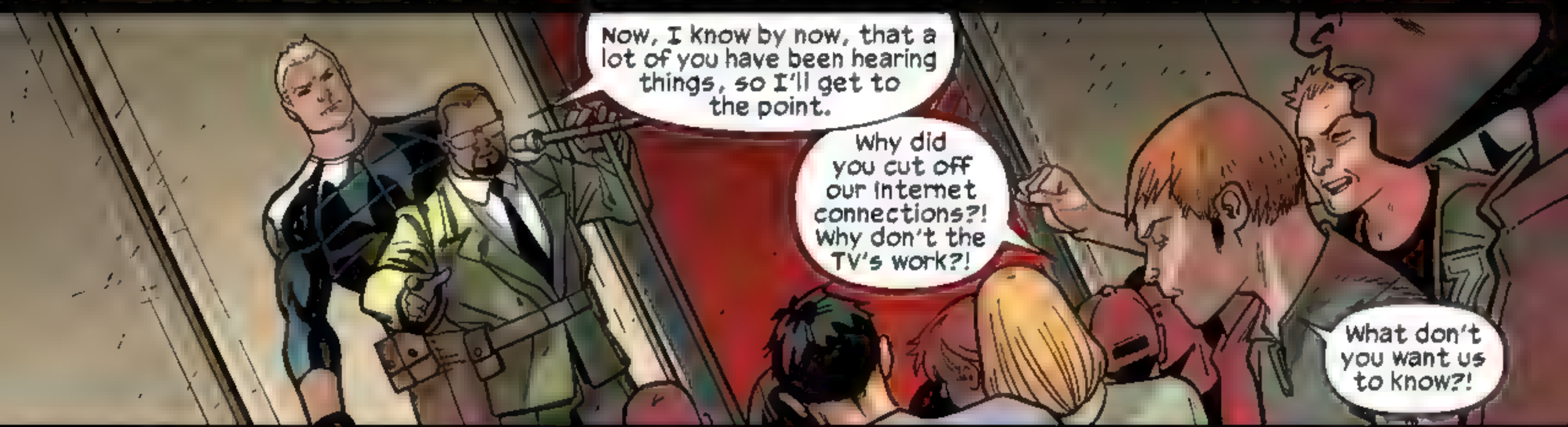
Ororo! Ororo! Did you hear?!

Hm?

Did you hear what's on the news?!



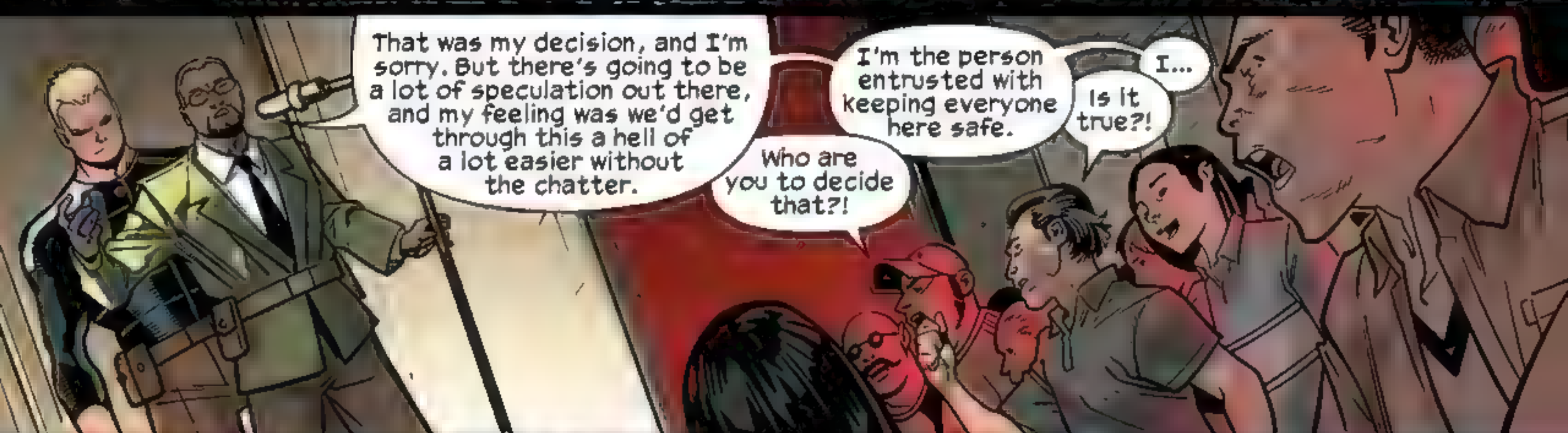
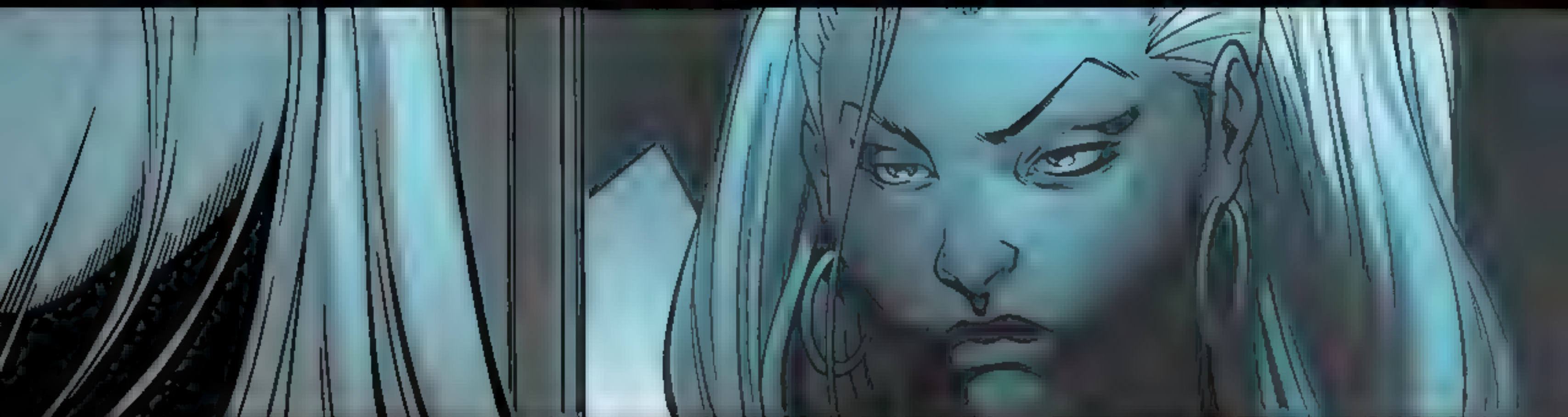




Now, I know by now, that a lot of you have been hearing things, so I'll get to the point.

Why did you cut off our Internet connections?! Why don't the TV's work?!

What don't you want us to know?!



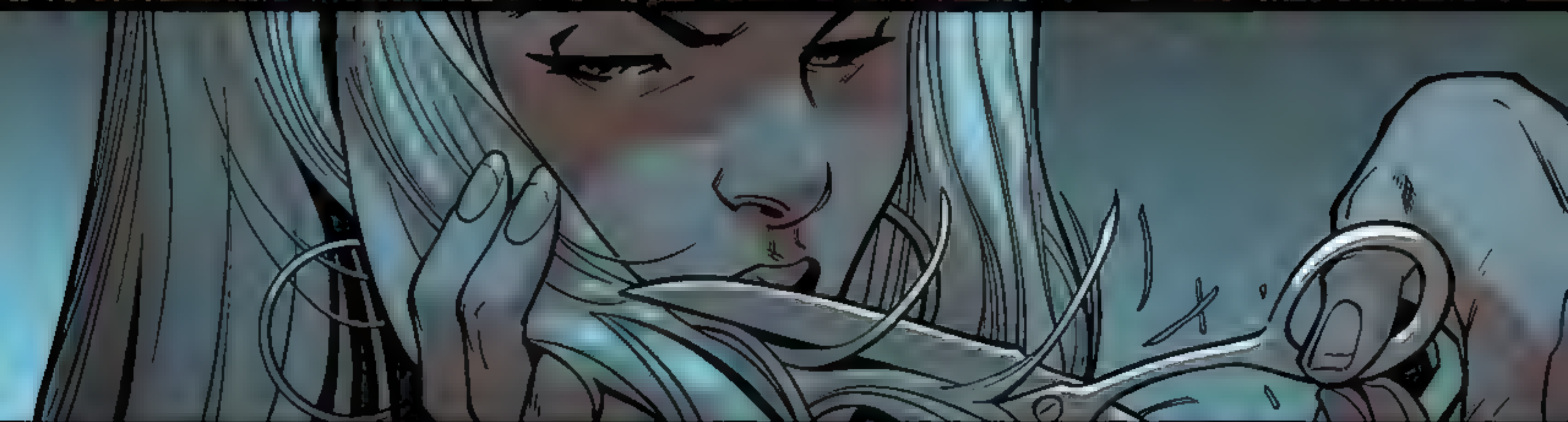
That was my decision, and I'm sorry. But there's going to be a lot of speculation out there, and my feeling was we'd get through this a hell of a lot easier without the chatter.

I'm the person entrusted with keeping everyone here safe.

Is it true?!

Who are you to decide that?!

I...

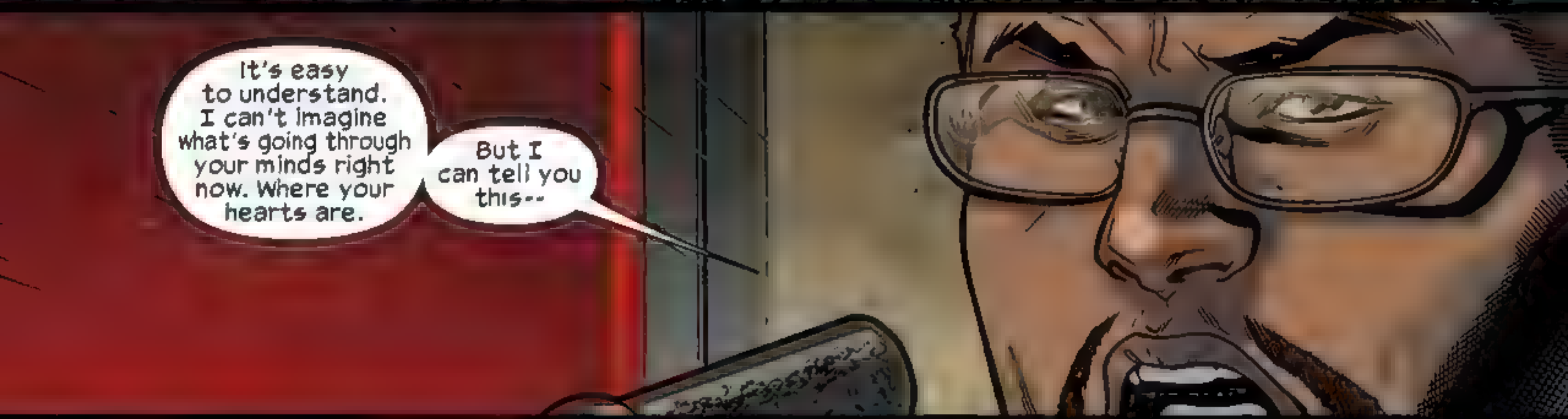


I don't know.



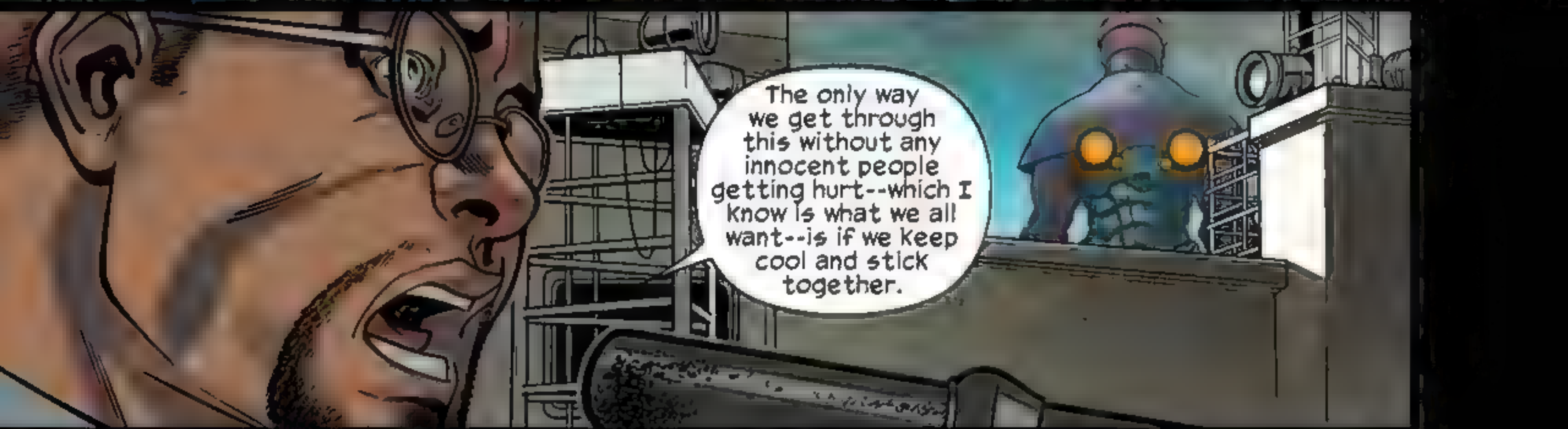
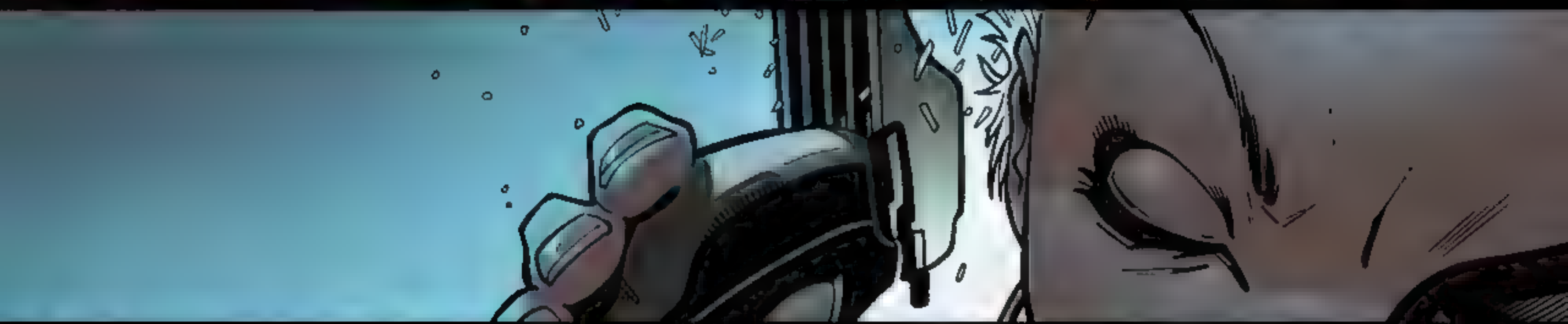
What I do know is it looks like we've all been deceived--and that's bound to make people angry.

And where there's anger, sometimes, things get violent. Things get crazy.



It's easy to understand. I can't imagine what's going through your minds right now. Where your hearts are.

But I can tell you this--

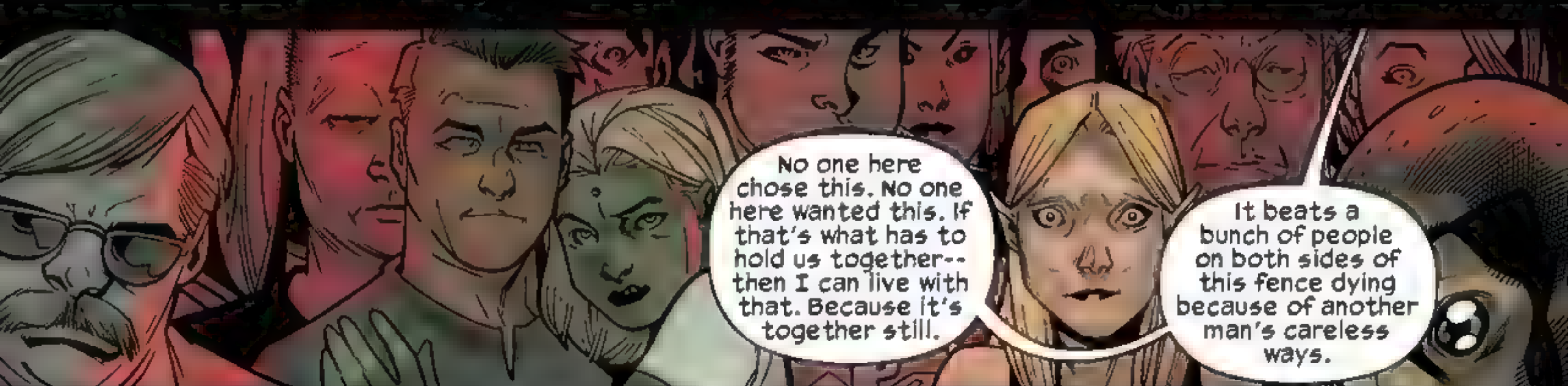
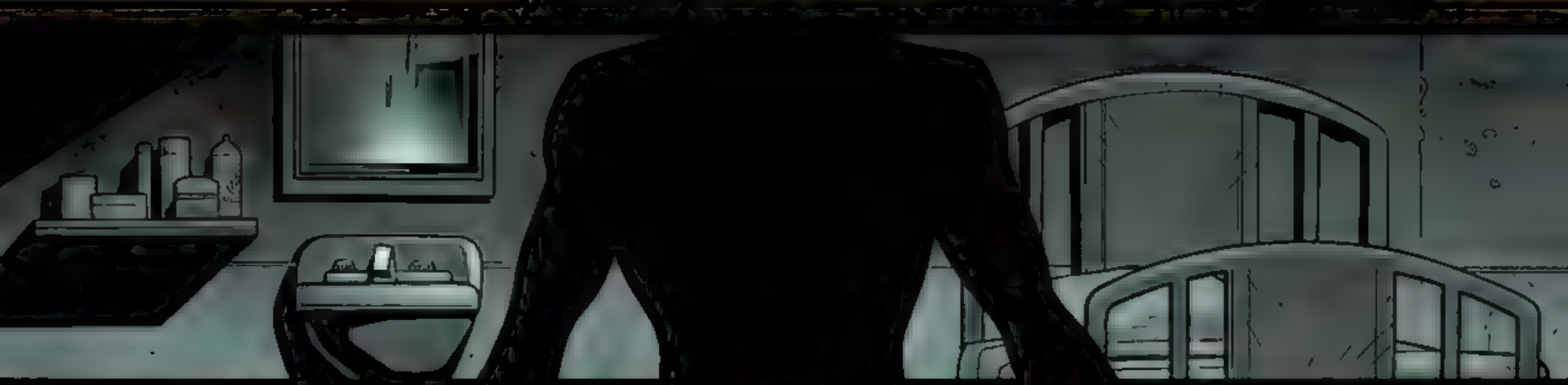


The only way we get through this without any innocent people getting hurt--which I know is what we all want--is if we keep cool and stick together.



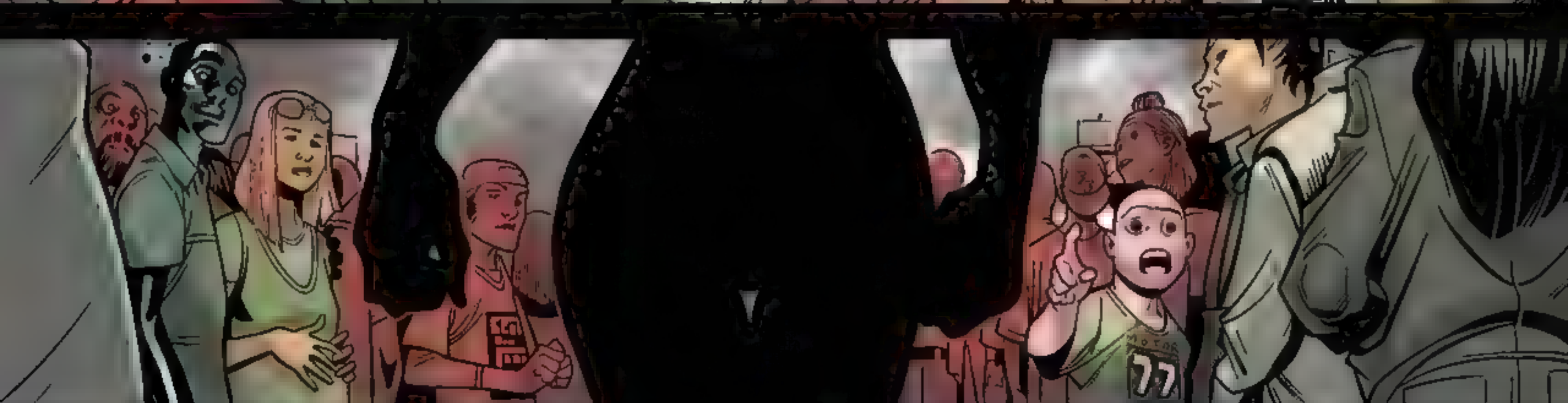
I'm not telling you not to be outraged, I'm not telling you not to hate this government and all these people who did this-- I'm not.

But me and my men-- we're right there with you. You hear that? No matter what comes next, we're side by side now.



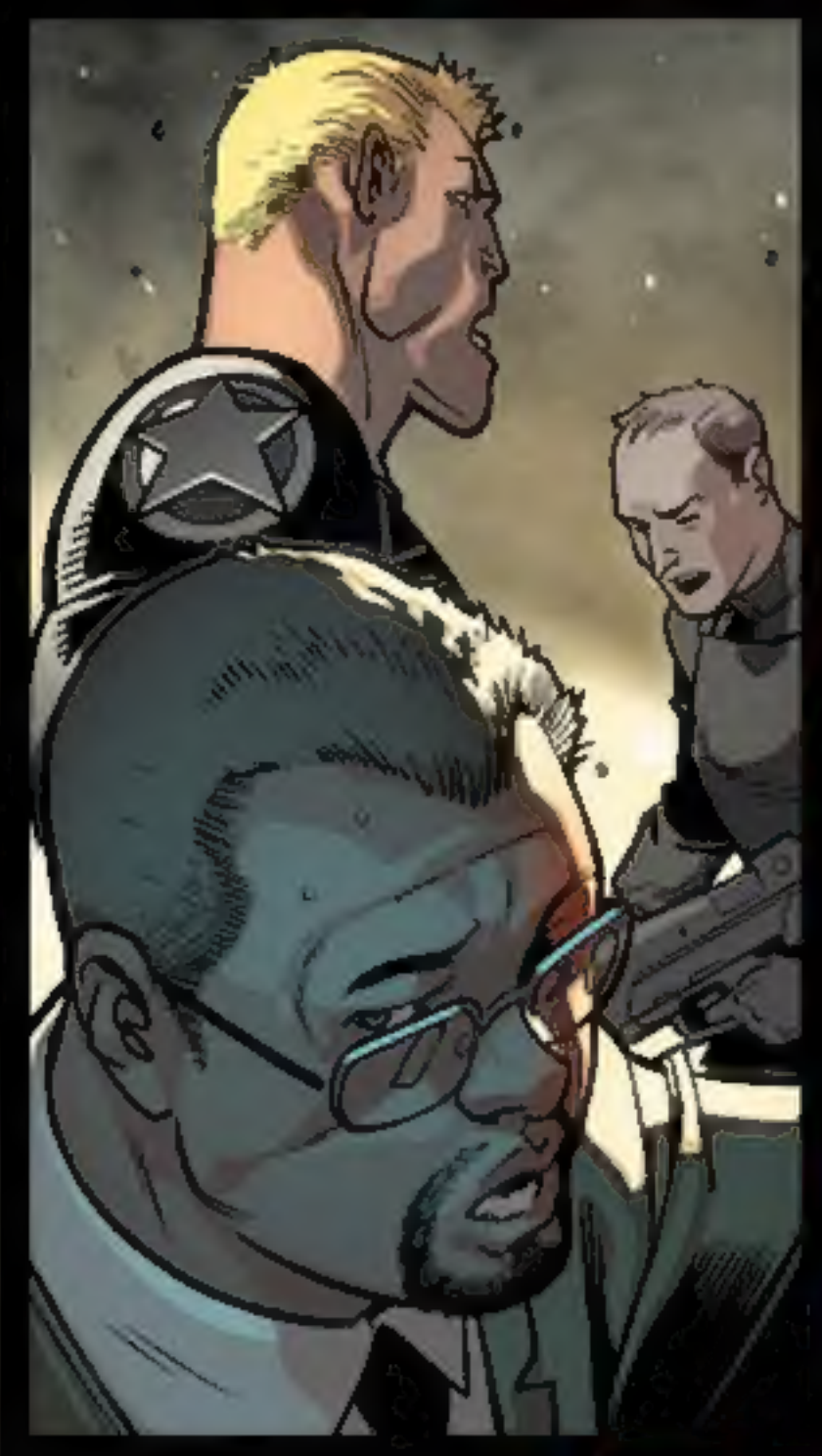
No one here chose this. No one here wanted this. If that's what has to hold us together-- then I can live with that. Because it's together still.

It beats a bunch of people on both sides of this fence dying because of another man's careless ways.



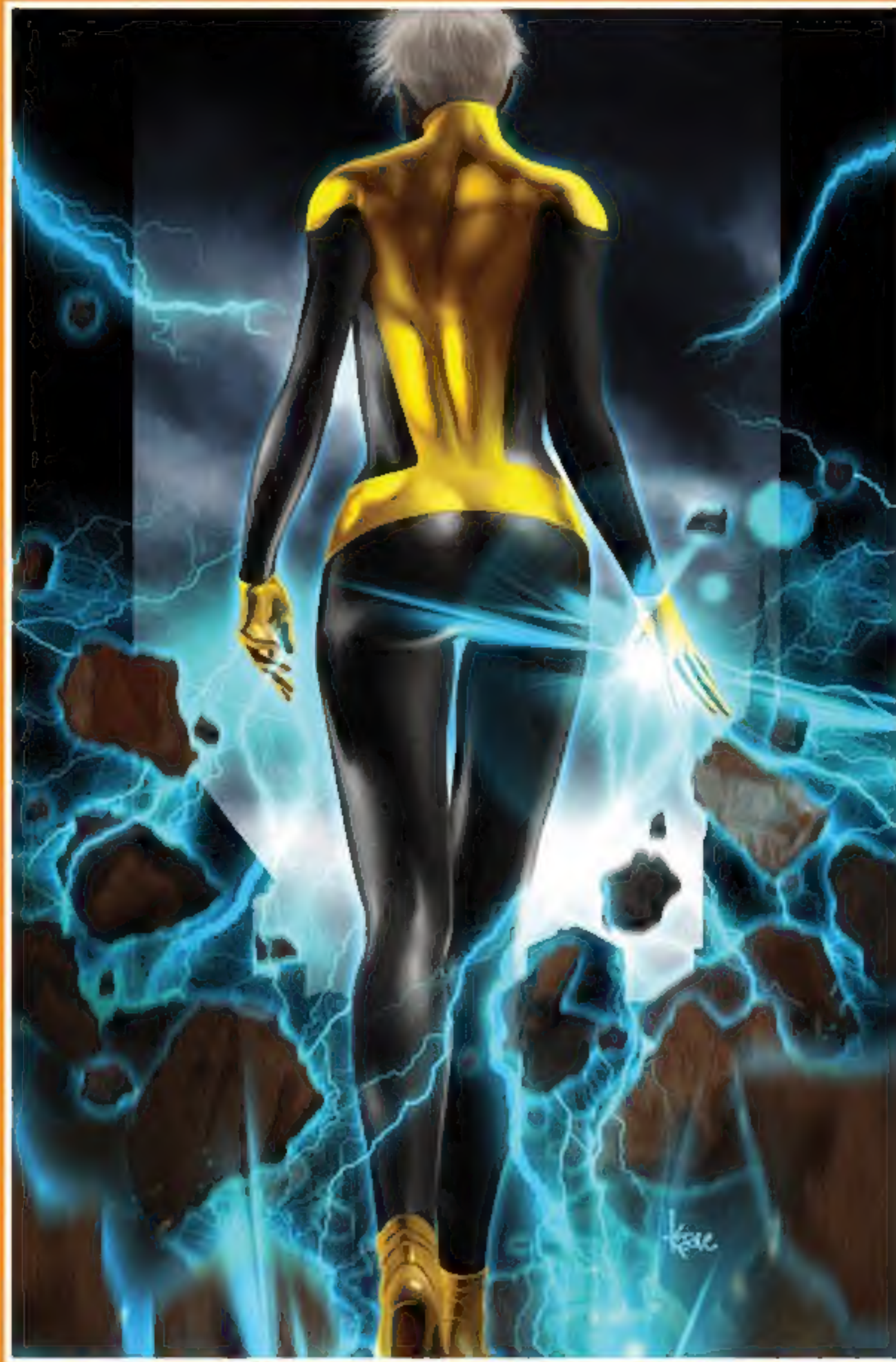
So who's with me here? Who can get behind standing together on this?





TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT: MUTANTS BEHIND BARS!



ON SALE NOW!



04/11/12

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EMPIRE

Greetings from Megan

